GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
REVIEW OF GANGA ACTION PLAN
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of Ganga Action Plan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the implementing agencies in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to(e) Since its inception in 1985, the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) has been implemented in phases taking up the pollution abatement works in the polluted stretches of the river identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the objective of improving the water quality. Besides Ganga, its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda were also included under the GAP. A total sewage treatment capacity of 1765.34 million litres per day has been created so far for Ganga and its above tributaries. Implementation of the Plan is monitored regularly by the Centre and the State Governments through a multilayer monitoring mechanism which reviews the policy issues, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time. Further, regular water quality monitoring of the river is done by independent reputed institutions. Despite phenomenal increase in the urban population along the banks of the river leading to its increased pollution loads, the water quality of the river Ganga has shown discernible improvement at major locations over its pre-GAP quality.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments functioning under their control.The States have been advised to ensure coordination among various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through holding regular meetings by Principal Secretary/Chief Secretary and to sort out inter-sectoral issues like acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources among others.